

THE FOURTH MURDER TRIAL.

LEIGHTON, THE MULATTO WHO KILLED MARY DEAN, IN THE DOCK.

Cheusing a Toothpick with Coal Uncovers White Witness Described How He Cut the Girl's Throat with his Razor—The Story of the Girl's Death Graphically Described.

The fourth trial for murder during the present term of the Oyer and Terminer was begun yesterday, before Judge Drift. It was that of Augustus D. Leighton, the young mulatto who, on the 13th of June last, cut with a razor the throat of Mary Dean, a handsome young colored woman, who had once sustained illicit relations with him, but had separated from him, and refused to renew the intimacy.

When Leighton was freed from the hands of which he was shackled to the officer who brought him into the court room, he removed his new gray overcoat and took a seat beside his counsel. He is of low stature, with a well-knit and well-proportioned frame, and looks to be 30 or 35 years of age. With his brown moustache, straight hair, and pallid complexion, he would readily pass for a white man. From the fore head to the tip of the nose his face is an agreeable one; but his strong square jaws and large mouth, with his thick moustache protruding beyond the point of the nose, have a look approaching ferocity. He wore a short coat and vest of mixed cloth, and light checked trousers.

His counsel were Col. Charles S. Spencer and Mr. John F. Quarles, a colored gentleman, who wore his hair neatly parted in the middle. Mr. Quarles was recently United States Consul at the Spanish port of Malaga. He is a graduate of Howard University, and was admitted to the New York bar, a few months ago, on motion of Mr. Algernon S. Sullivan. He has an agreeable, though almost purely, African face.

It only took an hour to get a very intelligent-looking jury, although the panel has developed a surprising number of jurors with prejudices against hanging for murder. Several of the Wall street brokers got off on this score. So did Mr. Francis S. Smith, of Street & Smith's Weekly. Mr. Irving Putnam, another publisher, who was accepted as a juror on the Munsberg trial and was refused on the trial of Caulfield, was allowed to take a place in the jury box yesterday without objection. Mr. Quarles objected to the name of his colored name was called, as if on general principles.

After the court had taken a short recess, Assistant District Attorney Bell opened the case against the prisoner. He told the jury that in neither of the three cases of homicide at this term had the jury found a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree. Then he proceeded to tell the story of the murder. A young woman, it is said, was sent to the room of the first story; her mother's sister occupied the back room. There was a small half bedroom on the same floor, which two months before the murder was occupied by the prisoner, Mr. Lett, a colored man, who was probably suspecting something wrong in Leighton's relations with his daughter, ordered him away from the house. He afterward sought to get into the house again, but was refused by a man by the name of Dean, but had separated from him, was residing at 138 West Twenty-sixth street with her infant child. She was exceedingly anxious of "Dad," and came once before, in a fit of jealous rage, attempted to stab her. Two days before the murder he came to a person who was a witness, and who did not suppose Mrs. Hill, or Mr. Lett, would be willing that will last her for life?" This remark was accompanied by such a manifestation of rage that it was thought it advisable to seek Mrs. Hill out and give her a warning.

On the very day of the murder, Sunday, June 13, he said to another person, "Well, the old woman will not have anything to complain of if I do not kill her." He then went to the basement, took the other woman, who was at the window. As soon as he saw Mary he rushed after her and made a swooping blow at her. Her screams were heard throughout the house, and had scarce time to reach the basement room when she fell dead. Her head was almost severed from her body. Leighton ran away, but the police, who were up to the secret, followed him and took him into custody.

"What did he say?" was asked. "I will tell you what he said," said Mr. Lett. "I will tell you what will last her for life?" This remark was accompanied by such a manifestation of rage that it was thought it advisable to seek Mrs. Hill out and give her a warning.

Mr. Corbin, associated in the purchasing interests of the firm of Drexel, Morgan & Co., have had to buy up judgments against the property and advance money upon the receiver's certificate in order to meet the expenses. An offer of judgment was brought up of \$100,000 upon which the receiver was appointed. It is estimated in Wall street that they have advanced at least \$200,000 to the receiver, and that they hold most of the second mortgage bonds of the company. All these interests were disposed of in the sale made yesterday.

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